



CALPEEK

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Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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CAMPAIGN '98: CHECCHI LAUNCHES 6 MONTH EXPLORATORY DEMO BID FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIF.

Editor's note: There was a full house Feb. 4th at Town Hall Los Angeles when Northwest Airlines chair Alfred Checchi officially launched his exploratory bid for the Demo Party's 1998 nomination for governor. Here's our update & analysis...

...Checchi's debut speech attracted 700+, including most of the State's key political reporters and columnists. The speech was long on themes, but short on substance --- *all foam, not much beer*. At a news conference following the speech, Checchi said he'd need additional time to develop specifics. There was absolutely no applause during the speech. The 48-year-old businessman is no Cuomo or Clinton; he's about on a par with Gov. Pete Wilson in the speech-making department. Early report card: some rate Checchi's first major outing as no better than a C...

...Key points: ● Checchi called the initiative process *legislative vigilantism* that is producing alarming results --- laws that are often crude, incomplete or unconstitutional, thus the legislative process has been reduced to *graffiti*; ● He said there was a need for real leadership that won't divide the state with *wedge issues*; and ● The airline exec outlined five(5) areas which will constitute the basis for his dialogue during the next six months (economic development, education, family issues, welfare reform and race relations)...

...As for the politics, Checchi is a fresh face and is very *mediagenic*. And in a state that elects its leaders with :30-second tv spots, Checchi, with his millions, is positioning himself as an outsider who can get the job done. Some of the "neutral" Demos we contacted after the speech were impressed with Checchi's progressive message. And Checchi wasn't shy when it came to bashing potential rivals. In his speech he said he's not intimidat-

ed by threats or personal attacks of *political careerists*. In the opinion of **Calpeek** sources, that was a shot aimed at Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D)...

...As for Republicans, some weren't impressed at all. "It was like walking out of a Broadway musical and not remembering any of the songs. There was no real substance - it was a very safe speech," a GOP source told **Calpeek**. That also was the basic assessment of Davis' chief political advisor, Garry South, who attended the speech to check out the "opposition"...

...FYI: the verdict in the O.J. Simpson civil trial not only messed up front page and tv coverage of Pres. Bill Clinton's State of the Union address, but also took a toll on Checchi as well. Normally the Checchi story would have made either the front page of the L.A. Times or Page 3. But with all the Simpson coverage, it was relegated to the front page of the Metro section. Stay tuned...

PART 4: INGLEWOOD VS. L.A. - IT'S CRUNCH TIME IN THE BATTLE OVER LAKERS & KINGS.

Editor's note: In Part III, we updated the situation in San Diego & Sacto with regard to *public funding of sports facilities*. This week in Part IV, we'll focus on the battle between the cities of Inglewood and Los Angeles to win or keep the NBA's Lakers and the NHL's Kings. Here's our report & analysis...

...Question: why would anyone want to see a pro basketball or pro hockey game from a luxury box high up and far away from the action when it's a better view from the so-called *cheap seats*? Answer: corporations, which pay hundreds of thousands of dollars for luxury boxes, like to entertain in this fashion --- and owners need the revenue to compete in the bidding wars for top sports stars. So that's one of the reasons why Kings owners (and developers) Philip Anschutz &

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Edward Roski want a new facility...

...In **Inglewood**, business leaders and key movers have put 3 tax increases on the April 1st ballot, with the funds to be used as the city's part to build a new arena next to the Great Western Forum. There's **no** opposition to these measures as yet, but proponents seem a little sluggish in getting off the ground. If these tax hikes win, Inglewood's plan will be on equal footing with L.A.'s proposal. One of the key advantages for Inglewood: *it's easier to deal with this smaller city than with L.A. and its mayor + 13 "kings & queens,"* a reference to the city council by a **Calpeek** source...

...In January, the **L.A. City Council** gave a tentative OK to a deal to build a new 20,000 seat, \$230-million arena on the same site as the L.A. Convention Center. The amount of taxpayer assistance is around **\$70.5 million** (to buy the land and prepare the site). The council vote was 13-2, with Councilmen Nate Holden & Joel Wachs in strong opposition. The key difference between the Inglewood plan and the L.A. plan: L.A.'s plan is a real estate deal, with new projects (commercial & entertainment development) planned around a new arena. In the long run, L.A.'s plan could mean big bucks for the community and the developers...

...How do voters feel about the L.A. plan? By a margin of 55% to 34%, voters are **opposed** to building a new downtown arena with taxpayer assistance, according to a new survey published Feb. 4th by the L.A. Times (sample size: 854 registered voters, Jan. 29 - Feb. 2)...

...FYI: What's happening to L.A.'s **other** NBA team, the L.A. Clippers? Sources think Clippers owner Donald Sterling is sitting in the driver's seat. The Clippers have an average home attendance of 8,700 and management is use to being in a double-team market. Nevertheless, if the L.A. arena deal goes through, Mr. Sterling will have some options. In other words, the Clippers could become "free agents." Stay tuned...

VERMONT GOVERNOR TO ADDRESS S.F. GROUP.
Vermont Gov. Howard Dean(D) will speak to the Commonwealth Club of CA, 11:45 a.m., Sheraton Palace Hotel, S.F. on Feb. 21st. For info & RSVPs, ☎(415)597-6705...

JOHN BABCOCK: ONE OF L.A.'S MOST RESPECTED JOURNALISTS PASSED AWAY FEBRUARY 2, 1997.

One of the problems with growing older is that you begin to see many of your close friends and associates pass away. And it's never easy. As so it was on Sunday, Feb. 2nd, when I heard of John's death. He was 63 and far too young, but had been in failing health. He died of cardiac arrest, but the stroke he suffered in 1996 and his constant battle with diabetes didn't help...

...John was on **Calpeek's** Editorial Board of Directors and was much more than just a mentor to both Mel Horowitz and myself. Both of us were very saddened to hear of his death...

...He retired in from KABC-TV Eyewitness News in 1993 after putting in his 20 years. He also worked at KTTV-TV and at several L.A. radio stations, including KABC. He won a Peabody Award in '77 (with the late Wayne Satz) for a series about alleged racism in the LAPD and an Emmy in '79 for a series he wrote & produced on the L.A. Times. He also won 4 Golden Mikes. And between some of his earlier news jobs, John served as a political press secretary in some of Calif.'s hottest campaigns. Politics was one of John's passions. He also was an L.A. history buff and knew some great stories...

...But if you had to name a cause which was really dear to John, it would be Boys Republic in Chino. As a teen he was sent there for stealing a car. Boys Republic turned his life around. Last year, he served as president of the Board of Directors of Boys Republic...

...A little nostalgia/trivia. After his stint at KTTV-TV News with Alex Dryer, John went to work at KABC Radio('68). He did a daily a.m. & p.m. news & commentary show and for a while he was even a talk show host (and had great ratings, too). And on Saturday mornings John and news anchor Bob Arthur did a 2-3 hour news bloc. It was news *lite*, chatty and management loved it so much they wanted John & Bob Arthur to do it weekdays in a.m. drive. John hated it - so they replaced him with Ken Minyard (and it became Ken And Bob & Company and --- you guessed it, the show turned into a huge hit). Oh well, such is life. We'll all miss John very much. R.I.P...

PRSA/LA HOSTS PANEL OF EDITORIAL EDITORS.

PRSA's L.A. chapter will host 3 editorial editors at its monthly meeting, 11:30 a.m., Feb. 20, Sheraton Grande Hotel, L.A. Editors include Janet Clayton of the L.A. Times, Larry Allison of the Long Beach Press Telegram and KNX Radio editorial director David Ysais. For info and RSVPs ☎(213)461-4595...

SPRING '97 ELECTIONS: CITY & COUNTY CONTESTS.

Editor's note: Here is Part IV of **Calpeek's** continuing series of on city & county Spring Elections...

☒ ***Santa Clara Co.*** - In the battle to replace Mike Honda(D) on the Board of Supes, there was an upset of sorts as Gilroy Mayor Donald Gage, a Republican running with a conservative message, ran a stealth campaign and finished 1st with 28.2% of the vote in the Feb. 4th special. In 2nd was Santa Clara Water Bd. member Rosemary Kamei of Morgan Hill with 17.9%. Keith Honda (Mike's cousin) finished 3rd with 15.7% and in 4th was community leader John Redding with 15.5%. Turnout was just 11.8%. Sources say Gage was aided by an independent expenditure(IE) effort funded by the NRA. Gage was critical of the Board of Supes for banning gun shows in the county. The runoff between Gage and Kamei will be March 18th...

☒ ***Hawaiian Gardens*** - This small city of 13,700 in southeastern L.A. Co. is still in *political turmoil* from last year's major recall election. And some of the recall survivors are now up for reelection Mar. 4th. Mayor Lupe Cabrera and Councilman Robert Canada are both up --- and there's one OPEN seat, plus another recall: this time against Councilman Rene Flores, a key ally of former Councilwoman Kathleen Navejas, who was recalled last December. Navejas has decided to run for city clerk against Dominic Ruggeri. And just recently, things really turned nasty as *police arrested Navejas* after she was ejected from the council meeting, but refused to leave...

...Looming in the background is Dr. Irving Moskowitz, the Hawaiian Gardens bingo club operator, who may soon break ground on his own poker club. The poker club election of 1995 is what touched off all the infighting in Hawaiian Gardens. It's likely Moskowitz will wade into the election with an IE campaign. FYI: if Moskowitz's name sounds familiar, it's because he was featured on CBS-TV's *60 Minutes* about 7-8 weeks

ago. Moskowitz is the American who has been buying up Arab housing in Jerusalem through his for-profit and non-profit real estate businesses. And some of the money for these purchases have undoubtedly come from the Hawaiian Gardens bingo operation. Stay tuned...

AAPC's POLLIE AWARDS - THE OSCARS OF POLITICS.

Editor's note: At the annual meeting of the American Assn. of Political Consultants(AAPC) in early January, Pollie Awards were given out to the outstanding campaign managers for the '96 election cycle. The big difference between the Oscar and the Pollie: there are only 25-30 categories for the Oscars, but 72 different categories for the Pollies - way too many. Here's the list of winners of those CA based firms (or firms with major offices in CA) that received awards. But first...

...**The top Pollie Awards:** Campaign Manager of the Year - Clinton/Gore '96. Pollster of the Year - Penn & Schoen (Clinton/Gore's pollster)...

...Some other top Pollie Awards went to Calif. firms and consultants. Internat'l Consultant of the Year - Dick Dresner, George Gorton and Joe Shumate - for the Yeltsin Campaign. And Best Use of New Technology: Tony Fazio & Kevin Reilly for Campaign War Games...

...There were 12 Calif. firms which won **1st place Pollie Awards**. They include: Terris & Jaye, Sheingold & Associates, Phil Giarrizzo Campaign Consulting, The Kamber Group/L.A., Goddard*Claussen/1st Tuesday, Pacific/West Comm. Group, Solem & Associates, Paul Kinney Productions, Russo Marsh + Raper, Wayne C. Johnson & Assoc., Zimmerman & Markman, and Ringe Media

...10 Calif. firms won 2nd place awards (Terris & Jaye got two 2nd place awards); 8 Calif. firms won 3rd place awards (Sheingold won 3 and Giarrizzo won 2); and 13 firms got honorable mentions (Terris & Jaye had 2)...

...In terms of the most awards, S.F.-based Terris & Jaye took home 6 awards; Sheingold had 5; Strategy & Campaign Management won 3 awards, as did Giarrizzo. Stay tuned...

47th ANNUAL SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

The Calif. Center for Education in Public Affairs, Inc., will again conduct its annual trip to Sacto for college students & professors, Feb. 23-25. Panel discussions with lobbyists, the news media, legislative & executive branch leaders is on the schedule. For info ☎ Dr. Stan Moore at Pepperdine Univ. (310)456-4377...

CALPEEK'S LEGAL FILE: PROP. 208 UNDER ATTACK

Editor's note: Here's an update on some legal cases **Calpeek** has been following...

◆ **Prop. 208 Under Full Assault** - Both major CA political parties, as well as politicians and campaign contributors, filed three(3) lawsuits Jan. 30th in U.S. District Court in Sacto. Plaintiffs attorney Joe Remcho filed his anti-208 lawsuit for the CTA, SEIU and Consumer Attorneys of Calif., while plaintiffs attorney John Mueller (of Nielsen, Merksamer et al) filed on behalf of the CA Republican Party and plaintiffs attorney Lance Olson (Olson, Hagel, Fong et al) filed for CA Demo Party. The CDP/CRP actions center on contributions of the major parties and how much money the parties can contribute to candidates. The FPPC's legal staff will represent pro-208 forces and will get assistance from the NY-based Brennan Center, which helps defend campaign reform laws...

◆ **Open Primary Law** - Opponents of CA's new Open Primary Law now have a trial day in U.S. District Court in Sacto: July 28th. Plaintiffs are the CA Demo Party & the CA Republican Party, represented by Olson, Hagel, Fong et al for the Demos and Nielsen, Merksamer et al for the GOP. The case will be heard in front of Judge David F. Levi. Defendants (pro-Open Primary Law) will be represented Deputy AG Cy Rickards of the CA DOJ and James Clark from the Century City office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher...

◆ **Orange Co. Vote Fraud Probe Widens** - According to a story in the L.A Times by staffers Peter Warren & H.G. Reza, the scope of the Orange Co. DA's probe into the voter registration activities of the Hispanic right group Hermanidad Mexicana Nacional is much bigger than previously thought. And according to a document obtained by the LAT, DA investigators believe that a number of HMN officials may have "willfully and unlawfully" aided hundreds of noncitizens to register to vote. HMN has denied any wrong-

doing. One point not mentioned in earlier stories: the DA actually started his probe of HMN in October, before former Congressman Bob Dornan(R) lost and went public with his own allegations...

NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES

Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● A sad note: S.F. Chronicle columnist Herb Caen died of lung cancer on Feb. 1st. The 80-year-old Caen was a San Francisco institution. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: former U.S. Treasurer Elizabeth Gato, 85, died Feb. 1 in Kentfield. She was also a Demo committeewoman from Calif. R.I.P...

● Another sad note: Former INS Commissioner Alan C. Nelson died Jan. 30th in Sacto. He was co-author of Prop. 187. R.I.P...

● Roxana Foxx has been elected president of the Lincoln Club of San Diego Co. The club's new exec. director is Nancy Haley. ☎(619)618-1998...

● Kurt English is the new president of the Orange Co. Young Republicans...

● Consultant Tom Dey jumps from Goddard* Clausen/First Tuesday's Sacto office to head up the new govt. affairs dept. for Blue Shield of CA. ☎(916)351-7486. Email: tom-dey@msn.com...

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